

Summary of Japanese-Language Education Overseas Programs

1—Building and Strengthening Network of Overseas Japanese-Language Institutions

① JF Nihongo Network "Sakura Network"

The JF Nihongo Network called "Sakura Network" linking core Japanese-language institutions and teacher associations abroad expanded its core membership to 118 organizations from 42 countries and 2 regions by the end of March 2012. We helped them organize seminars, provide training, and develop education materials (see p.20).

② Dispatch of Japanese-Language Specialists

We dispatched the following specialists in Japanese-language education to core Japanese-language institutions overseas. We also provided preparatory training covering technical knowledge and skills for the fiscal 2012 program participants (see p.20).

- Senior Specialists: 39 projects in 26 countries
- Specialists: 47 projects in 24 countries
- Assistants: 22 projects in 14 countries

③ Commissioned Programs for the JENESYS Programme

We were commissioned to dispatch young Japanese-language teachers who majored in Japanese-language education at university to East Asian countries.

- Dispatches: 45 people to 10 countries

④ Supporting Japanese-Language Institutions and Projects

We provided grants to core overseas Japanese-language institutions.

- Grants: 173 projects in 67 countries

⑤ Japanese-Language Support through Domestic Collaboration

With the collaboration of Japanese universities and graduate schools offering a Japanese-language teacher training program, we dispatched students abroad as Japanese-language teaching interns. We also provided grants for projects of the Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language to promote Japanese language and Japanese-language education overseas.

- Dispatch of interns: 380 projects in 28 countries and 1 region
- Grants: 3 projects

2—Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

In 2011, the JLPT was held on July 3 and December 4, and about 490,000 people in total took the test in 61 countries and regions abroad. Three countries—Chile, Ecuador, and Austria—and seven cities—Gangneung in Korea, Nantong, Xining, and Fuzhou in China, Johor Bahru in Malaysia, Monterrey in Mexico, and Edinburgh in the United Kingdom—became the new test sites (see p.21).

- July test: about 210,000 examinees in 96 cities in 20 countries and regions overseas
- December test: about 280,000 examinees in 196 cities in 60 countries and regions overseas

Furthermore, we published the *Japanese-Language Proficiency Test Official Practice Workbook*. Five separate workbooks are available, each of which covers one of the five levels from N1 to N5. Each workbook provides almost the same number of questions as the

actual test, and contains a sample cover page of the test booklet, sample answer sheets, and a CD (plus the script) of the listening section.

3—Enhancing the Japanese-Language Course Overseas

The Japan Foundation enhanced the Japanese-Language Course (JF Language Course), which targeted the general public, in fiscal 2011. We introduced a new curriculum based on the "JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education," and conducted classes that placed emphasis on the understanding of Japanese culture.

In fiscal 2011, a total of 8,000 people took JF Language Courses offered at 21 overseas offices of the Japan Foundation as well as Japan Centers in Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

4—Training Programs at the Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa

We provided the following training programs for overseas Japanese-language teachers. We also carried out activities to promote interaction between participants and locals to meet the needs of communities (see p.22).

① Invitation of Overseas Japanese-Language Teachers

- Long-Term Training Program: 57 teachers from 30 countries
- Short-Term Training Program: 127 teachers from 41 countries
- Intensive Training Program for Secondary School Teachers from Korea: 35 teachers
- Intensive Training Program for University and Secondary School Teachers from China: 57 teachers
- Training Program for Secondary School Teachers from Malaysia: 6 teachers
- Graduate Program on Japanese Language and Culture (Master's Course: new entrants): 4 students from 4 countries
- Graduate Program on Japanese Language and Culture (Master's Course: existing students): 6 students from 6 countries
- Graduate Program on Japanese Language and Culture (Doctoral Course: existing students): 5 students from 5 countries
- Training Programs for Leading Teachers: 11 teachers from 5 countries

② Initiatives Commissioned by the JENESYS Programme

- Special Invitation Programme for Japanese-Language Teachers in East Asia: 45 teachers from 10 countries
- Special Invitation Program for Japanese-Language Teachers in South Asia: 17 teachers from 3 countries

③ Other Commissioned Training Programs

- Training for Young Russian Japanese-Language Teachers: 9 teachers
- Short-Term Training for Japanese-Language Teachers from Taiwan: 8 teachers

④ The Library of Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa

With its 47,259 books and audiovisual materials and 726 journals and

periodicals, this special library provided access to information and materials in the field of Japanese-language education. (The library was used by 19,666 people, and 13,817 books and other materials were lent out.)

5—Developing and Promoting Japanese-Language Education Materials and Teaching Methodology

The Japan Foundation developed Japanese-language educational materials to respond to the various needs of Japanese-language learners and teachers, and developed and operated websites to assist teachers (see p.23).

○ *Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture*

We continued to develop the pilot edition of this coursebook based on the "JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education"

○ *Erin's Challenge! I can speak Japanese.* (broadcast/website)

In fiscal 2011, this program was rebroadcast on NHK Educational Channel, and also broadcast in Brazil, Sri Lanka, Korea, Finland, Indonesia, the United States (Hawaii and Southern California), Vietnam, and Laos with appropriate subtitling or dubbing. The WEB version launched in March 2010 was made available in Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, and Korean, in addition to Japanese and English. French and Indonesian versions were also produced.

○ *Japanese in Anime & Manga* (website)

The French version was added to the existing English, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese versions. Now that all 13 contents are available in the five languages, website development has been complete. Visits to the site totaled 2.4 million hits.

○ Portal for Learning Japanese: *NIHONGO-e-Na* (website)

We operated this portal site for learners to find various websites and online tools useful for Japanese-language learning. The site was offered in English and Japanese with some of the contents available in Chinese and Korean. Visits to the site totaled 1.02 million hits.

○ *Minna no Kyozaï* (website)

The community-building function and site management function of *Minna no Kyozaï* were enhanced and new teaching materials were added. Visits to the site totaled 4 million hits.

○ Activities to promote the "JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education"

We supported two meetings of the Japanese Global Articulation Project (J-GAP), where the "JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education" was promoted as a tool contributing to consistency in Japanese-language education. We also organized 11 seminars and workshops at home and abroad to publicize the "JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education."

○ Provision of information on the current situation of Japanese-language education

We issued the following two periodical publications on Japanese-language education, both in print and online. The print versions were donated to libraries.

○ *Nihongo Kyoiku Tsushin* (website)

○ *Kokusai Koryu Kikin Nihongo Kyoiku Kiyo* (The Japan Foundation

Japanese-Language Education Bulletin), Vol. 8 (book/website)

6—Programs at the Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai

① Japanese-Language Programs

Aiming to meet various needs of Japanese-language learners overseas at different levels, we provided several types of programs especially for specialists and students. Furthermore, we collaborated with relevant partners in and outside of Japan to offer training programs.

○ Programs for Specialists: (Foreign Service Officers) 29 people from 28 countries; (Public Officials) 9 people from 8 countries; (Specialists in Cultural and Academic Fields) 53 people from 22 countries

○ Programs for Overseas Students: (University Students) 69 people from 29 countries; (Outstanding Students) 65 people from 62 countries; (High School Students) 30 people from 11 countries; (Lee Soo-Hyun Youth Exchange Program) 30 people from Korea; (JET Memorial Invitation Program for U.S. High School Students) 32 people

○ Support Program through Domestic Collaboration: 80 people from 25 countries

○ Training Program for Queensland Teachers: 5 people

○ Training Program for JET Participants in Osaka: 17 people from 4 countries

○ Training Program for the Japanese Teachers Association in Thailand (JTAT): 32 people

② Commissioned Programs for the JENESYS Programme

○ Japanese-Language Program for University Students in East Asia (College in Japan): 38 people from 7 countries

○ Training Program for East Asian University Students Studying Japanese: (summer) 34 people from 8 countries; (fall) 24 people from 5 countries

○ Invitation Program for Japanese-Language Learners: 39 people from 7 countries

③ Other Commissioned Programs

○ Japanese-Language Program for Students from the Chinese University of Hong Kong: 8 people

○ Japanese-Language Program for University Students from Indonesia: 2 people

○ Canon Vietnam Japanese-Language Program: 1 person

④ The Library of Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai

With its 49,716 books and audiovisual materials and 266 journals, the library provided access to information and reference materials on Japanese culture and society. (The library was used by 16,320 people, and 9,273 books and other materials were lent out.)

7—Japanese-Language Education for Nurse/Certified Care Worker Candidates under EPAs

We provided a program of preparatory Japanese-language education to 200 Indonesian and 100 Philippine candidates for nurses and nursing care workers.